

BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

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BRIT BALL

The Official Voice of the British Baseball Federation

Issue 34

85p

March 1996

Euro 96

SUPPORTED BY
 **SPORTS COUNCIL**

Plans are well underway for the biggest event in European and British Baseball this year - the 1996 European Baseball Championships.

38 games will take place between 3 - 11 August at three venues in Hull, Hessele and Leeds to find the top two teams who will gain promotion to the coveted A Pool.

Teams from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Norway, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Lithuania, Croatia, Ireland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Great Britain will be competing.

Watch out in next month's Britball for the full game schedule and ticket details.

BBF / PONY YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

Outlined on page 2 are the various divisions on the BBF / PONY Youth Baseball League for 1996. There are now over thirty youth teams registered and competing in regular season play. The regular season will culminate in post season play-offs, and a National Championship final in September.

For 1996, league play will concentrate on the 12-16 age group, although many clubs have under 11 teams who will be playing in instructional settings throughout the season. The divisions are spread over the whole country, extending from Plymouth to Aberdeen. The respective divisions are outlined overleaf.

The BBF youth calendar for 1996 also includes the following events and activities.

Pitch Hit and Run Schools Development Programme and Competitions

BBF Teeball Programme

BBF Grand Slam Special Needs Baseball Programme

National Schools Baseball Championship

British Youth Series (England, Ireland, Scotland & Wales)

BBF Cadet Centres of Excellence

BBF Cadet Annual Baseball Camp

Major League Baseball International Envoy Coach Programme.

For further details contact Ian Smyth, Youth Development Director on 0113 261 2571 or watch for more details in future editions of Brit-Ball

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★ happening in British Baseball,
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OLYMPIC BASEBALL ON TELEVISION?

Baseball will be a medal sport at this summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta - but how much will be shown on British television? Write to the BBC and request that Baseball be included in their Olympic television coverage.

ENQUIRIES

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BBF/PONY YOUTH LEAGUE

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen
Dundee Dragons
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Glasgow

NORTH WEST

Bolton Knights
Cartmel Valley Lions
Kirkby Braves
Preston Panthers
Trafford Saints

NORTH EAST

Hessle Apaches
Hull Mets
Hunslet Harriers
Leeds Lugnuts
Menwith Hill Pirates
Sheffield Pumas

MIDLANDS

Nottingham Angels
Sibley Vikings

SOUTH

Bracknell Blazers
Brentwood Bucks
Cambridge Monarchs
Hemel Red Sox
Milton Keynes Braves
South Bucks Blue Jays
Windsor

SOUTH EAST

Arunchester Wildcats
Bournemouth B's
Brighton Jaguars
Leyton Cardinals
The Pack
Tonbridge Bobcats

SOUTH WEST

Bristol Black Sox
Crewkerne
Gloster Gators
Swindon
Plymouth Bladerunners

BBF MARKETPLACE

The following items are available free of charge from the BBF to assist in the development of your club.

Diamond Development - contains details of all bodies to whom you can apply for funding.

Diamond Construction - every possible dimension you could require for building and marking our your diamond.

Introduction to the Game - for beginners to baseball, it briefly explains the rules and what equipment is required.

History of the Game - a brief history of baseball in the UK, good for any youngsters doing a school project on baseball.

How to set up a Baseball Team - How do you go about starting your own team - ideas for fund-raising, recruiting players, details of fees, where the BBF spend the money etc.

Teeball - an instructional leaflet on the game of tee-ball. Ideal for passing on to your local school to encourage them to play the game.

Baseball Information Sheet - again another leaflet which is ideal for people new to the game, it explains what the BBF is and what we can provide.

Parent Information - a leaflet designed for you to hand out to your junior players parents. It explains baseball to them and gives details of

how they should become involved in your club.

Baseball Qualifications - a booklet which explains the aims and objectives of the coaching association and gives you details on how to attain level A, AA and AAA qualifications.

The Great Game of Baseball - an A2 poster explaining the game and it's history. Ideal for displaying in your local library, sports centre and schools to encourage people to play.

The Sporting News Official Baseball Rules - 1995 Edition - SPECIAL PRICE - only £1 per copy - can your team afford to be without them.

BBF Scratch Cards - what easier way can there be for your team to raise funds. Available at a special price of 15p a card.

BBF Baseball Camp Handbook - This 45 page book is a must for anyone organising a baseball camp this summer. It full of ideas for schedules, lesson plans, posters, advertising, competitions etc to make your camp a success plus examples of certificates and awards that can be made at the end of the camp. It's available at a cost of £3.50 per book.

The Sporting News Chronicles of Baseball - the story of America's National Pastime from 1900 to the present day. An A4 hardback book containing 700 historic photographs and 351 pages of great baseball events - £15 including postage and packing.

Inflatable Baseball Bats - You've seen Atlanta Braves chop, now here's your chance to start a new trend and do the BBF Bash! These inflatables blow up to the same length as a normal baseball bat - 32" and are approximately twice as thick. The barrel of the bats is coloured red, white and blue in a union jack design. A must for supporting the GB squad in the European championships, and they're only £1 each

BBF Caps - Let people know that you belong to the British Baseball Federation. These caps are of an exceptional quality, embroidered with the BBF logo. They are available in either white with a blue peak or red with a royal blue peak. At a cost of £10 can you afford to be without one this summer?

BBF Polo Shirts - Again an excellent way to promote the British Baseball Federation. These shirts are available in red, royal blue, white, grey or white with a blue collar. We have XL sizes in stock but S, M, or L may be ordered at an excellent price of £12 each.

Scoremaster Scorebooks - Let's make the statisticians lives easier and all use the same scorebook - the official scorebook of the BBF available at a cost of £4.00.

BBF Line-up Pads - feel ashamed when you present the umpire with your line up on a scrap of paper you found in the bottom of your bag? Get yourself a line-up pad. Each pad contains thirty quadruple sets which will last you the season. At £4.25 a pad can you afford to be without?

If you require more information on any of the above please contact:
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CONGRATULATIONS

to Julie and Ian Smyth on the
birth of their daughter Evie
Madeline on Monday 26
February 1996, weighing 7lb
15oz. Little sister for Marni.





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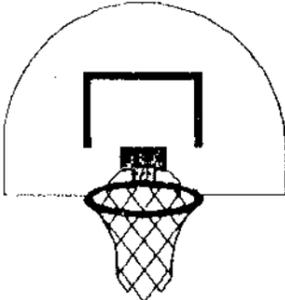
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RULE INTERPRETATIONS FOR UMPIRES, COACHES AND PLAYERS

The following excerpts are from a book "The Umpires WHY Answer Book" published by one of Baseballs leading clinician/umpire on baseball rules and their interpretations that the game has today, Carl Childress.

This in part will be covering Rules 8.00 to 8.06 (The Pitcher):

Scuffed Balls: Balls that are thrown by pitchers may at times do strange things on their way to the plate. Things to look for are, as the ball is tooling along towards the plate the ball suddenly drops off two, three or even four feet.

Also keep in mind, the situation the game is in, it may give you a hint when the pitcher throws one from the top and it ends up in the basement.

The Balk: Reason for the rule, "Protection of the Defense". Balks were invented to keep the pitchers from illegally deceiving the runners. Keep in mind that pitchers can legally deceive the runners by disguising their pick-off moves, varying their speeds of delivery or by shortening or lengthening their pauses in the set position, also the pitcher can vary their location in the set positions.

One hand at his side: Prior to the pitcher going into his set position (with his foot engaged on the rubber), the pitcher must have his hand down to one side. Keep in mind that if the pitcher steps off the rubber (stepping back with his pivot foot) he must immediately bring his hand down to his side.

No step towards a base: A pitcher with his foot on the rubber must step clearly toward the base

in which he is throwing to. Pitchers may step off the rubber while in the same motion throw to a base (umpires in most cases permit this). This means the pitcher does not have to step towards the base in which he is throwing due to the fact that the pitcher is now a infielder due to him stepping back and disengaging the rubber before throwing to the base.

No feinting towards first: The pitcher cannot fake or feint a throw to first while his foot is touching the rubber. This however is not the case for B2 or B3. The pitcher can without fear of a balk being called on him fake or feint a throw to second or third.

No stop in the set position: Rule 8.01b in Sporting News Baseball states that a pitcher must come to a "complete stop". This basically means that following a pitchers stretch and going into the set position, he must clearly come to a complete stop in the set position.

Within Carl Childress's books and audio tapes he talks about another topic covered within Rules 8.00 through 8.06, this is the calling of balks on pitchers and their catchers.

The following illegal pitching acts, moves by F1 that, unpenalized, give the pitcher an advantage not intended by the rules.

- 1) The pitcher does not stop in the set position.
- 2) The pitcher does not step towards the base in which he is throwing to.
- 3) The pitcher does not have his hand at his side.
- 4) The pitcher feints towards first.
- 5) The pitcher fakes a pitch (while on or off the rubber).
- 6) The pitcher makes a quick return pitch.

Let's look at each one of these and see why a balk would be

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called on the pitcher:

The pitcher does not stop in the set position:

Explanation: If the pitcher is not required to stop then the base runners would never get a clean start off the bag. This would give the pitcher an unfair advantage over the base runners because the pitcher could continue his motion through his set with not so much as a pause, before delivering the ball to either his catcher or to a base that he is trying to pick off the runner.

The pitcher does not step towards the base in which he is throwing to:

Explanation: Forcing the pitcher to step before the throw considerably slows down the pickoff move.

The pitcher does not have his hand at his side:

Explanation: The pitcher has to show his hand (not the ball) at his side. This is so the runner can judge how far off the base he can safely go without being picked off. Also the pitcher prior to going into his set motion, while he is bending down the pitcher may hang his hand down (with or without the ball) between his legs but if the pitcher moves his free hand (non glove hand) up and inside his thigh or any part of his leg or body then he will be charged with a balk. Again the pitcher must show the runner his free hand.

The pitcher feints towards first:

Explanation: If the pitcher was allowed to feint to first then he would have the base runner moving back and fourth like a cork in the water. With a runner on second the pitcher is allowed to

feint or fake throws due to the distance between the rubber and the base and also the movement it takes to position the pitcher to make such a throw. The pitcher can fake or feint to third due to the fact the pitcher has more to lose by trying to pick the runner off of third and also in most cases the runner will not be breaking off the bag as far as the runner on first.

The pitcher fakes a pitch (while on or off the rubber):

Explanation: This action illegally deceives the runner in making him think the pitcher is throwing home, it also changes the pitchers natural habitual pitching motion.

The pitcher makes a quick return pitch:

Explanation: In this case the batter is the one being illegally deceived not the runner. This type of delivery will also change the pitchers natural habitual pitching motion. Lets add that this pitch is highly dangerous and should be called immediately.

Here are a number of balks that he considers technical (or picky) balks:

- 1) Pitchers foot is hanging off the end of the rubber (when someone complains then call it).
- 2) Pitcher (with a man on base) slides from his windup position to a stretch position (if the pitcher makes any move to attempt to pick off the runner then balk him, if there are no runners on base then you have nothing).
- 3) Pitcher steps off the rubber with his non-pivot foot (if the pitcher makes any move to

attempt to pick off the runner then balk him).

- 4) Pitcher (while engaged on the rubber) reaches in his glove to reposition the ball.
- 5) The pitcher goes to his mouth with his throwing hand.
- 6) The pitcher executes a jump/throw (to a base) in the same motion (yes it's technically a balk if the pitcher releases the ball prior to making contact to the ground but honestly if it's close don't call it).
- 7) Catcher leaves his catchers box prior to the pitcher going into his windup or stretch.
- 8) Pitcher separates his hands while still in contact with the rubber then steps back off the rubber with his pivot foot (if the pitcher steps off the rubber and waits for a second or two before separating his hands and dropping them to his sides then don't balk him but if the pitcher steps off and then steps back on the rubber without separating his hands then that's a balk. Why? The pitcher can come to a set once right?

In general Mr. Childress is saying "Ignore picky balks until someone starts to complain..." (then nail the complainers first).

Above all use common sense in the calling of balks and expect the defensive coach to come out and have a chat with you about your call, and when he does, be approachable and listen to what he has to say, as an umpire we are not above question.

**Terry Greer
Umpire**



**KIDS PLAY THE
BEST
BASEBALL
WHEN THEY'RE
HAVING FUN**

TRAVELLING IN EUROPE THIS SUMMER?

You may wish to watch some of the CEB competitions that are taking place this summer, and in particular give some support to Enfield Spartans who are competing in the CEB Cup B Pool in Austria. The following is a list of the competitions, date and venues for this summer.

Championship Seniors B
Hull
3-11 August

Championship Juniors A
Almere, Netherlands
7-14 July

Championship Juniors B
San Marino
29 June - 6 July

Championship Cadets
Sarcelles, France
+ 24-31 August

Championship Juveniles
Kutno, Poland
8-14 July

CEB Supercup
Nettuno, Italy
6-7 April

Europa Cup A Pool
San Marino
12-16 June

Cupwinners Cup A Pool
Sundbyberg, Sweden
12-16 June

CEB Cup A Pool
Torino, Italy

12-16 June

Europa Cup B Pool
Karlovac and Zagreb,
Croatia
12-16 June

Cupwinners Cup B Pool
Ljubljana, Slovenia
12-16 June

Cupwinners Cup B Pool
Heemstede, Netherlands
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CEB Cup B Pool
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CEB Cup B Pool
Vienna, Austria
12-16 June

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VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

1995 began, the same as every other year, wet and cold but with it the thought of better weather ahead and another baseball season to look forward to.

So, the troops gathered, many of us not having thrown a ball for three months, but boy! what a great feeling loosening up the arm again and hearing the thud of the ball hitting leather. All of the old faces were there and many new ones too. A wave of optimism was sweeping through the ranks; the possibilities of two teams, a youth policy, a little league and no, surely not an ex major league pitcher going to play for Bournemouth?

The weeks passed by and after overcoming the initial sore shoulders and stiffness things began to take shape and we started to resemble a baseball team. Unbelievably, one rumour became reality - ex Boston Red Sox pitcher (he couldn't help which club he played for!) John Trautwein - more affectionately known as JT was going to play for Bournemouth. Imaginations started to run riot, thoughts of Divisional titles, Play-offs, Premier League - who knows? We were all entitled to our own Field of Dreams.

We all knew the season was getting closer when we started to train outdoors, but god, with sleet and icy winds it may have been more appropriate for playing ice hockey

THAT WAS THE YEAR ... THAT WAS!

than baseball. So with winter training finished and spring finally sprung it went onto our pre-season friendlies.

It started well, a resounding victory over Chichester, a narrow defeat against one of our divisional favourites, Croydon (where even Claire was given her knickers back!) and some good performances from the rookies. An air of confidence went through the team, but now came the real test, our first league game against Gloster Meteors.

This was always going to be a tough one - and boy was it! JT made his debut and pitched pretty well for a rookie, giving up just one earned run through seven innings. Unfortunately five unearned runs meant that the game was very tight and after the regulation nine innings it was all level at 9 - 9. Gloster's one run in the top of the tenth meant we had to score. After a Brucey double tied it up, Phil put down a perfect bunt for JT to make hard work of sliding across home plate to score the winning run. A great start to the season but I'm glad they're not that close every week.

Next came a double header at home to Tunbridge Wells Royals. Game one saw us on the wrong end of a 20-6 thrashing with the highlight

being a 1-5-4 triple play - the first in BBF history? Game two saw us split the series with an 11-8 victory. JT took the win.

A fourth consecutive home game this time against Tonbridge Bobcats saw the B's bats explode to life, combining for 21 hits (1 apiece from Daryl and Ian Macleod). We ran out comfortable 30-20 winners via the slaughter rule. Ian Macleod took the win. Three wins out of four - not a bad start.

Our first road trip, to Essex Eagles, met with real disaster and probably the worst umpire of all time as we were crushed 15-0 (sounds more like tennis!). Follow that with a home game against Droitwich Spas which saw us go from bad to worse with a 20-19 defeat and all of a sudden we were 3 and 3 not so good!

A 9-0 forfeit after travelling all the way to Stevenage got us back to winning ways but it was worth the trip just to see "shoeless clueless" running the bases.

Then came the visit of Cambridge Monarchs and one of the games of the season. And boy what a game! B's led until the ninth inning but three unanswered Cambridge runs in the final inning stole them the win and

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condemned JT to his only loss of the season.

A week later, on a blistering hot Sunday afternoon City Slick Sidewinders felt the heat of the B's bats with Ian Macleod taking the win in a 23-13 victory and by defeating Croydon Pirates 20-9 in yet another home game the following Sunday the B's tied Croydon for second spot in the league with a 6 and 4 record.

With temperatures soaring, one of the hottest summers on record was well into its stride as we began five consecutive road trips. The first, and ill-tempered affair saw us go down 18-8 to Waltham Forest Angels.

Then came the big one, the grudge match - a double header against arch rivals Arun; and were we fired up for this one?! For me, the highlight of the summer was about to begin, well backed up by our vociferous travelling support, what followed was orgasmic! WE STUFFED THEM!! - out of sight! JT was inspirational, throwing accurately and very hard just ask Ian Damell). Oh, their faces were a picture as they watched in disbelief as JT struck out batter after batter to record the first no hitter in B's history. It was a joy to watch. It was great! Unfortunately we couldn't carry the euphoria of game one into game two and we went down 9-4, but not without a fight, and ended up sharing the honours. It was certainly a day to remember.

Game four of our road trip saw Croydon come from behind to snatch an 18-15 victory to avenge their earlier defeat in the season. A forfeit by Tonbridge Bobcats gave us a week off and left us with our final road trip of the year, a double header against Hounslow Hawks. Two easy victories 18-3 and 34-8 with wins going to Phil and Ian respectively meant that we had improved our record to 10 and 7.

The season finale came at home with another double header against 'already' champions London Wolves. We still had everything to play for because by winning one of the two games we could clinch the runners-up spot. An added incentive was the arrogance of our opposition, who thought that by just turning up they would win both games - suckers! They arrived in party mood but we soon wiped the smug grins off their faces as we inflicted only their third defeat of the year. JT pitched another superb game, retiring the first eleven batters he faced and throwing just 79 pitches for the whole game, thus ensuring a 7-3 B's victory and Division One South runner-up. We could now relax and the final game of the year was one to enjoy, everyone on the bench got a game and although we went down 17-7 it was a very satisfying end to a long hot season.

Of course, the summer wasn't just made up of league baseball. There was the successful Old Timers tournament from which we came away with the trophy and of course the London tournament, what a scorching hot weekend! Our baseball was pretty pathetic but what do you expect sleeping in a tent (in Tyler's case a leaky one) and getting up at a 7.00am on a Sunday morning with a hangover. But, we had a laugh and a joke and Jan's fry up was great!

Finally, road trips just wouldn't be road trips without the joys of the minibus. As uncomfortable as it may be it has become tradition to have a good ol' sing-a-long and a bit of body surfing on the way home from those distant destinations. A couple of final memories from what has been a great summer are: Nige and his acrobatics, falling over running between third base and home (a well deserved dime bar play of the day) and who will ever forget those immortal words of: "JAN OPTREX!!!!" One final note of thanks goes to all the wives and girlfriends, who put up with their 'men' (for want of a better phrase) disappearing for whole Sundays at a time when they would, no doubt, rather be taken to the beach of the New Forest Butterfly Farm - BORING!! - Sorry girls, but boys will be boys.

So that's my summary of our 1995 season. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did and here's to even better things in 1996 - perhaps the second team that we didn't get this year, and who knows, maybe Division One champions? Sounds good eh. I can't wait so that we can get this show on the road again.

Daryl Verrion
Bournemouth B's

1996 EUROPEAN BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 'B GROUP'

Join us and give your support to the GB Squad

3 - 11 August 1996 in Hull, Hessele and Leeds

Over the past few weeks many of you have requested details of places to stay for the duration of the European Championships. Ceri Morgan of Dragon Tours has negotiated an extremely good deal with Hull University in their Halls of Residence. At £28 per night including meals, you won't find anywhere else much cheaper. If you would like to book, please complete and return the booking form below with your cheque, direct to Dragon Tours. If you are going to be in Hull for the week, why not join the organising committee. We're sure there will be some way in which you can assist, and you will still be able to watch the games. Let us know if you are available.



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GRAND SLAM BASEBALL

The British Baseball Federation has designed Grand Slam Baseball to enable children of different abilities to enjoy the full benefits of baseball participation in an athletic environment, structured to their abilities. This programme is being developed with help from various groups currently involved with the promotion of disability sport.

More than simply the skills of baseball learned through the experience, the value of baseball is found in the proven therapeutic and socialisation benefits of participation in sports, the strengthening of the participants self esteem, the opportunity to mainstream and the and the disciplines of team work and fair play.

The philosophy of Grand Slam Baseball is to provide a framework so that every child may experience a structured athletic activity. The wide range of abilities will necessitate variations not only in rules, but in the philosophy of conventional baseball. Beyond basic safety rules the programme is free to adjust rules to suit the skill levels of the participants.

Aims and Objectives

- ◆ To provide opportunities for children of different abilities to experience baseball as an athletic activity
- ◆ To integrate children into mainstream BBF programmes.
- ◆ To develop a flexible system of rules and administration that accommodates the wide range of abilities.
- ◆ To train teachers and helpers to deliver baseball to children.
- ◆ To provide teachers and helpers with a structured scheme of work, lesson plans and other resources to assist the development of the programme locally.
- ◆ To encourage volunteer helpers from within the school community to act as "buddies".
- ◆ To promote a greater awareness and understanding of ability in respect to baseball and other athletic activities.



For further details of this programme, and how you can develop Grand Slam Baseball in your area, please contact Ian Smyth, Youth Development Director on 0113 261 2571.

1996 BRITISH BASEBALL LEAGUE STRUCTURE

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Nottingham I
Birmingham Bandits
Liverpool Trojans
Humberside Warriors
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Brighton Buccaneers
Essex Arrows
Hemel Red Sox
London Wolves
Cambridge Monarchs

NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION ONE EAST

Barnsley Strikers
Nottingham II
Darlington RFC Demons
Hessle Apaches
Sheffield Bladerunners
Newark Yankees

NORTH - ENGLAND DIVISION ONE WEST

Stretford A's
Preston Bobcats
Liverpool Tigers
Birmingham Brewers
Manchester Cougars
Cartmel Valley Lions
West Midlands Razorbacks

NORTH - SCOTLAND DIVISION ONE

Edinburgh Reivers
Glasgow Comets
Dundee Dodgers
Tayside Cobras

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Milton Keynes Truckers
City Slick Sidewinders
Hounslow Hawks
RAF Molesworth
Croydon Pirates
Bournemouth B's
Arun Panthers
Tunbridge Wells Royals
Burgess Hill Red Hats
Stevenage Knights

SOUTH - DIVISION TWO

Brentwood Stags
Brighton Buccaneers B
Tiptree Rays
Gillingham Dodgers
Bracknell Blazers
Caterham A's
Guildford Mavericks
London Wolves II

SOUTH - DIVISION THREE

Eastbourne Mariners
Bracknell BlazersII
Guildford Mudcats
Waltham Abbey Arrows
Cambridge Monarchs B
Fulham Flames
Bournemouth B2's

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Name: _____

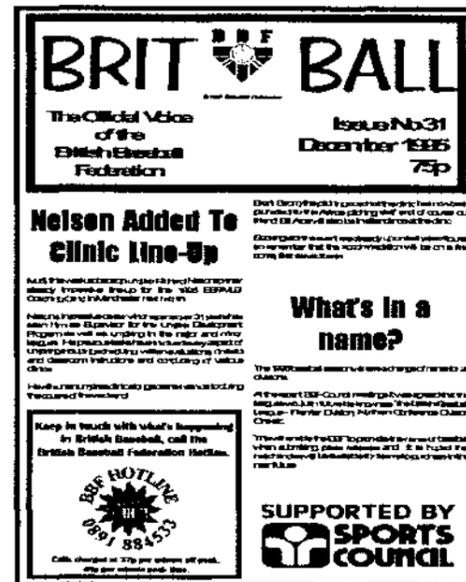
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Postcode: _____

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BBF / MLBI 1996 ENVOY PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Envoy Programme is to provide the CEB Federations with continuous instruction in baseball fundamentals, to players and coaches of all ages and levels.

People in the UK don't dislike baseball, they are just unfamiliar with it. In time, this country will have a rich tradition in this sport. Keep up the good work.

Vince Gardia, MLBI Envoy 1995

minimum of four and maximum of eight hours per day. The majority of their time should be spent on the field in practice or clinic situations.

As an envoy host your responsibilities will be:

- To provide housing and food for the envoy, whether this is in your own home or a local hotel. The envoy coach must have available his own bedroom, with an adequate supply of linens, blankets and hot water. Three meals per day must be provided, which meet the requirements of the coaches themselves.

This summer MLBI are sending six envoys to Great Britain. They will arrive in June, and stay in Great Britain for approximately 8 weeks. All the envoys are experienced college coaches in the US, and many have also coached in Great Britain previously.

The Envoy instructors' time and efforts will focus mainly on our youth and schools programmes, helping existing BBF clubs to grow their junior membership. They will bring to your club many benefits:

- * Develop your junior programme
- * Players receive expert coaching
- * Develop baseball in your local schools
- * Enhance your own coaching skills

..... 600 kids in 8 schools have spent a total of 90 sessions with Vince. He has also taken most of the 12 youth Blazer practices and the 24 summer holiday sessions and did most of the work at the Bracknell Schools Baseball Tournament. In addition he has helped the club team through 28 club practices, 9 games and 1 tournament. That's the bare bones of it. However the most important aspect of having an envoy is the enthusiasm that they can generate in the kids and people with who they come into contact.

Paul Vernon, Bracknell Blazers

- To provide transport to and from his airport of arrival / departure, as well as all local transportation.
- To arrange coaching sessions with local teams and schools for the duration of his stay. You will also need to supply a certain amount of baseball equipment for the envoy to use during his visits to schools etc, where equipment is not available.

So, if you like the sound of the above, and think that the envoy



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
INTERNATIONAL

coach will be invaluable to your club this summer, then you need to send in an application to BBF Head Office giving the following details. Envoys will be allocated on a first come first served basis in blocks of a maximum of 4 weeks.

- ◆ Your name, address and telephone number
- ◆ The names of your senior and junior teams
- ◆ An outline of the programme you intend to use for the envoy for the duration of his stay, and how you intend to publicise this.
- ◆ A brief summary of why your area will benefit from the envoy's expertise.

Applications should be sent in by 31 March 1996.

From our formation in 1993 to National Youth finalists in 1995 owes a great deal to the expert coaching received by both our coaches and junior players.

Our envoys Ted Novio and Tom Mendoza have put Hessle firmly on the baseball map.

Kevin Macadam, Hessle Apaches

The coaches can be expected to work five or six days per week, a

So, if you like the sound of the above, and think that the envoy

Dear Brit-Ball

I wish to publicly thank the BBF, in particular Keith Peskett, for the assistance he has provided in our recent negotiations with the Waltham Abbey Town Council. The membership should be aware of what a valuable asset they have at their disposal.

After submitting a list of proposed improvements to our baseball field in Waltham Abbey, Essex, the Council agreed to a meeting to discuss the list in more detail. As the list included a number of items that related to standards set by the BBF, it was vital that a knowledgeable BBF representative was present to emphasise the need for these improvements to be addressed.

Keith's attendance at the meeting clearly underlined to the Council representatives how serious the Lea Valley Baseball Club are in respect of the development of the sport in the area. By the end of the meeting, the Council had agreed to undertake working on a number of enhancements immediately and also requested that we put forward a plan for future developments. Considering that our relationship with the Council in recent years has not been very healthy, this was an unexpected response.

At the meeting, the Council announced that they had been awarded a £425,000 lottery grant to develop the Townmead site on which our baseball field is located. The new plan clearly identifies baseball as being an integral part of this exciting new development. In future years, visitors will have the opportunity of enjoying this new attraction, strolling along the country paths and around the lake, appreciating having the toilet facilities within reasonable proximity of the diamond, and hopefully taking advantage of the clubhouse that will be located at the heart of the new sports complex.

Now we are in the process of drafting our proposal for future developments of the baseball field. Keith has agreed to help us construct the

document to assist the Council in seeking funding. Without Keith's valuable experience in these matters, this task could have been extremely difficult and would have dramatically reduced our chances of success.

Finally, I believe that the BBF membership should be made more aware of the skills that Keith Peskett has to offer and more importantly, create a budget to enable him to make his knowledge more widely available.

Yours sincerely
Paul Raybould
Club President
Lea Valley Baseball Club

Dear Brit-Ball

As I have lived, and am still living high calibre baseball experiences as a player and a coach, I have learned with the contact of many players of Quebec (Canada), of my interests in particularly teaching this sport.

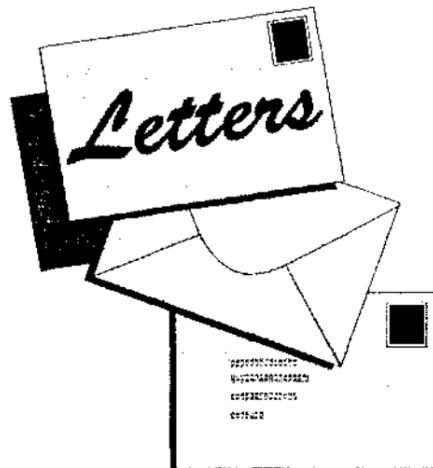
So I'm writing to you, to tell you of my interest as regard to the possibility of teaching the basics of baseball to the players of your federation. It would be for me a learning experience, as for your players. If you look at my CV you'll see that I can teach the technique, theory and tactical knowledge of the sport.

Naturally this would be done to complement the work already done by your organisation, and I'm ready to involve myself in any work being done already to further baseball in your region.

Don't hesitate to communicate with me for further information.

Yours truly
Michel Goyette
907 Mercier Street, Iberville
Quebec, Canada, J2X 3S6
Tel: 514 347 3335
Fax: 514 346 2390

Editor: If you would like a copy of Michel's CV please contact Head Office.



The following is a message which we received via the Internet.....

My name is Dan Rootenberg, I am a 22 year old baseball player in New York. I graduated college with all conference Most Valuable Player award, team captain and All-American '94. I also signed my first pro contract in the summer of 94.

I would like an opportunity to play in Europe.

I will be in England starting at the end of April. Who can I talk to, to arrange a tryout? When does the season start? Any information would be greatly appreciated.

My email address is
DannyRoot@aol.com

My mailing address is Dan Rootenberg, 127 Falmouth Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11235.

My phone/fax number is (718) 891 2414.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely
Dan Rootenberg

Dear Brit-Ball

In response to Doreen Megson and Brian Edwards costs for a weekend's baseball I think ours must be the cheapest. It doesn't cost us anything - in fact we usually make a profit!

Ground rent: As the majority of players in our club are juniors, we are a registered youth group with our local youth services. This registration which costs nothing entitles us to free use of school premises. This includes training (two nights per week) and games (Saturdays for juniors and Sundays for seniors). Therefore costs for our ground rent and changing facilities are nil.

Balls, scorers and umpires: We have a refreshment tent at each of our home games. The players wives, girlfriends, mums etc all assist in cooking hot dogs and burgers, serving hot and cold drinks, crisps and bars of chocolate. A trip to our local Makro (or Food Giant when they have special offers) provides us with all our supplies. We sell them all at a small profit, with the home and away teams and spectators tucking in between innings. We also sell Hesse Apaches caps. The profit we make each week pays for our umpires (of which we have 2 per game), and balls.

As scorer I don't charge a fee - it's my contribution towards making our club a success. Can anyone beat this?

Wendy Macadam
Hesse Apaches

NOT DEAD YET!....

A voice from the past called Head Office recently and asked to be remembered to many of his friends. Benny Benson still receives calls for the BBF and phoned to pass on some messages. He asked to be remembered to:

- Steve Herbert
- Michael Harrold
- Doreen Megson
- Barry Mayfield
- Gary Bedingfield
- Frank Parker
- Alan Bloomfield
- Brian Holland
- Lac Forbes
- Normal Wells
- Gary Mortimer
- Ted Thesingh

If you would like to re-acquaint yourself with Benny give him a call on 0115 974 6799.

PUZZLE CORNER

'CODED CLUES'
(Devised by Will Cosgrave)

Listed below are seven common baseball game words written in a number code. Can you figure out what the words are? 3, 6, 9 are vowels, the others are consonants.

- a. 8 9 1
- b. 7 3 1
- c. 8 9 5 5
- d. 8 9 2 6 2
- e. 4 5 9 1 6
- f. 2 1 6 9 5
- g. 9 2 2 3 2 1

Answers to last month's puzzle are as follows:

'Run Riddle'

1. First Base
HIT BY PITCH
2. Second Base
BASE ON BALLS
3. Third Base
BASE HIT
4. Home Plate
PASSED BALL

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BBF COACHING ASSOCIATION LEVEL A and AA COURSES

The next coaching courses are to be held as follows:

**Saturday 23
Sunday 24 March
Alyth, Scotland**

Both courses will commence at 10.15am and finish at 6.30pm with a short break for lunch.

On completion of the level A course the coaches will be able to teach baseball fundamentals, skills and drills, the rules of the game, how to organise practices and how to take necessary safety precautions when coaching. All equipment will be provided and a BBF Level A Coaching

manual will be given to each attendee. The courses will be conducted by Alan Wilson. The cost of the course is £18 and includes a certificate, coaching badge and registration as a coach for the 1996 season.

For the level AA course applicants must be registered coaches, should hold Level A, or have other applicable qualifications. All candidates must produce a log book of their coaching activities and five lesson plans on any aspect of baseball of their choice. To assist coaches with this, BBF session planners are available from

Head Office.

The cost of the Level AA course is £30. This includes all course materials, Level AA coaching manual, examination fee and registration as a coach for the 1996 season. Examinations will include practical and theoretical aspects of coaching. The course will be conducted by Barry Marshall.

Directions to the venue and a detailed programme will be sent upon receipt of an application form and fee. For anyone travelling a long distance to the course, local accommodation is available.

I would like to participate in the following Coaching Course in Alyth	
Level A <input type="checkbox"/>	Level AA <input type="checkbox"/>
Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Tel No:	Date of Birth:
Baseball Team: (if applicable)	
I require accommodation in Alyth on Saturday evening (please tick) <input type="checkbox"/>	
I enclose £18 / £30 registration fee for the course	
All cheques should be made payable to the British Baseball Federation	
Please return this form to:	British Baseball Federation 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle North Humberside HU13 9JJ

BBF UMPIRES AND SCORERS COURSES

The next scorers and umpires courses are to be held as follows:

**Saturday 23 March
Alyth, Scotland**

Both courses will commence at 10.15am and finish at 6.30pm with a short break for lunch.

The courses will be held separately, however the objectives are similar; to refine those skills which the prospective umpires and scorers may

already possess. They are not designed to teach the rules of baseball. Individuals attending the courses should have a basic knowledge of the rules of the game, as well as the willingness to learn and build on the information and techniques taught in both a classroom and practical environment. The roles, responsibilities and conduct of the umpire and scorer will be addressed as well as many of the basic rules

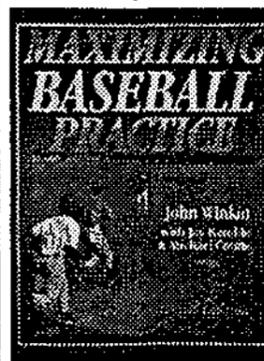
and situations.

The umpires course will be taken by Frank Scherer, and the scorers course by Clive Maude.

Directions to the venue and a detailed programme will be sent upon receipt of an application form and fee. For anyone travelling a long distance to the course, local accommodation is available. Please indicate on the booking form if this is required.

I would like to participate in the following course in Alyth	
Scorers <input type="checkbox"/>	Umpires <input type="checkbox"/>
Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Tel No:	Date of Birth:
Baseball Team: (if applicable)	
I require accommodation in Alyth on Saturday evening (please tick) <input type="checkbox"/>	
I enclose £5 registration fee for the course	
All cheques should be made payable to the British Baseball Federation	
Please return this form to:	British Baseball Federation, 66 Belvedere Road, Hessle, North Humberside HU13 9JJ

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And for all you other teams out there that have not had the FBI experience the season is not over for you yet. FBI are getting ready to have a mad, bad, end of season sale. All those established customers will get the details first, so if you are not on the hit list what are you waiting for.

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